

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A menu emulation method comprising:

encoding a form-submit element with a menu-item description and an associated graphical icon denoting a selectable menu;

disposing said encoded form-submit element in network distributable markup and distributing said markup to a content browser; and,

responsive to a selection of one of said menu-item description and said graphical icon, further distributing over said network to said content browser a graphical menu-structure encoded in at least one additional form-submit element.

2. (Original) The menu emulation method of claim 1, wherein said encoding step comprises:

embedding in a markup representation of said form-submit element, a network reference to a server configured to produce enhanced graphical menu images, said network reference comprising a textual menu-item description and a menu type.

3. (Original) The menu emulation method of claim 1, wherein said disposing step comprises:

embedding said encoded form-submit element in network distributable markup defining a table cell in a table;

formatting said table cell with a background color matching the background colors of other table cells in said table; and,

distributing said markup, upon request, to a content browser.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of further distributing a graphical menu-structure comprises:

responsive to a selection of said encoded form-submit element embedded in said table cell, assembling a graphical menu-structure encoded in at least one additional form-submit element;

replacing said encoded form-submit element embedded in said table cell with said graphical menu-structure; and,

formatting said table cell with a background color which differs from the background colors of other table cells in said table.

5. (Original) The menu emulation method of claim 1, wherein said disposing step comprises:

embedding said encoded form-submit element in network distributable markup defining a table cell in a table row in a table;

further embedding other encoded form-submit elements in other table cells in said table row; and,

formatting each said table cell with a first background color.

6. (Currently Amended) The menu emulation method of claim [[1]] 5, wherein said further distributing step comprises:

detecting a selection of one of said encoded form-submit elements in said row;

responsive to said detection, assembling a graphical menu-structure encoded in at least one additional form-submit element;

replacing said one of said encoded form-submit elements with said graphical menu-structure; and,

formatting a table cell containing said graphical menu-structure with a background color which differs from the background colors of said other table cells in said table row.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said assembling step comprises generating a graphical display of a menu-structure, said display comprising at least one of a textual menu action, a graphically selectable menu action, and a nested menu structure.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
preserving state information for each encoded form-submit element; and,
upon detecting a selection of one of said encoded form-submit elements, identifying graphical menu-structures in said markup from said state information, and removing said graphical menu-structures from said markup except for a graphical menu-structure assembled for said selected encoded form-submit element.

9. (Original) A menu emulation method comprising:
serving markup to a plurality of content browsers, said markup comprising at least one form-based input element encapsulating a reference to a composite image of menu text and a graphical icon, said icon denoting a selectable menu;

receiving an indication from at least one of said content browsers that said form-based input element has been selected; and,

responsive to said receipt of said indication, further serving to said at least content browser a graphical image of a menu structure, said graphical image comprising at least one form-based input element encapsulating a reference to a composite image of menu text and a graphical icon, said icon denoting at least one of a menu action and a selectable menu.

10. (Original) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for performing menu emulation, said computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

serving markup to a plurality of content browsers, said markup comprising at least one form-based input element encapsulating a reference to a composite image of menu text and a graphical icon, said icon denoting a selectable menu;

receiving an indication from at least one of said content browsers that said form-based input element has been selected; and,

responsive to said receipt of said indication, further serving to said at least content browser a graphical image of a menu structure, said graphical image comprising at least one form-based input element encapsulating a reference to a composite image of menu text and a graphical icon, said icon denoting at least one of a menu action and a selectable menu.

11. (Original) A network distributable emulated menu comprising:
a plurality of composite images, each said image comprising menu text and a graphical icon, said icon denoting a selectable menu;

a plurality of selectable form-based input elements, each said element encapsulating one of said composite images; and,

a graphical image of a menu structure, said graphical image comprising at least one form-based input element encapsulating a reference to a composite image of menu text and a graphical icon, said icon denoting at least one of a menu action and a selectable menu.

12. (Original) The emulated menu of claim 11, further comprising a plurality of table cells, each cell containing one of said selectable form-based input elements.

13. (Original) The emulated menu of claim 11, wherein said menu structure comprises at least one of a textual menu action, a graphically selectable menu action, and a nested menu structure.